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THE BARONIES OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

By Henry A. M. Smith.

X.

HOBCAW BARONY.

The Hobcaw Barony took its name from the Indian name applied to the point of land opposite the town of Georgetown on Winyah Bay, the extreme southern terminus of the neck of land lying between the Waccamaw river and the sea. The extreme point is now known as Fraser's point.

The Indian name of the whole locality covering the lower end of the peninsula seems to have been "Hobcaw," and the early white settlers called the point, Hobcaw point. There was another Hobcaw in South Carolina, viz: the locality on the south bank of the Wando river where that river debouches into Cooper river opposite Charleston neck. The territory between Shem or Shem-ee creek and the Wando river was known as Hobcaw neck and the point now called Remleys point was Hobcaw point.

The Barony as originally run out was one of the baronies included in the ten baronies aggregating 119,000 acres

laid out as early as 1711¹ and divided among the Proprietors by lot on 21 November, 1718.² This barony must have been drawn by Lord Carteret, for on 5th December, 1718, a formal grant was executed granting "unto John Lord Carteret a Barony consisting of Twelve thousand Acres of Land English Measure situate, lying and being upon Waccamaw River and Commonly called Hobcaw point butting and bounding as appears by a plot or plan thereof hereunto annexed."³

John Lord Carteret, Baron Carteret of Hawnes (afterwards Earl Granville) to whom the Barony was granted, was one of the Lords Proprietors of Carolina—the celebrated Lord Carteret, and "one of the first orators, purest patriots, keenest wits, brightest classical scholars, and most ardent convivialists of his time."

He held the barony for about twelve years and then by deeds of lease and release, dated respectively the 18th and 19th February, 1730, conveyed to "John Roberts of Dean's Court in the County of Middlesex esq^r." * * * * * "all that said Barony consisting of Twelve thousand acres of Land English measure situate lying and being upon Waccamaw River commonly called Hobcaw point."⁴

The consideration paid by John Roberts was £500. sterling. There is nothing on the record to indicate that Lord Carteret did anything towards settling up and reducing to cultivable condition any part of the barony; and the price paid would rather import that there were no improvements on the tract when sold.

The General Assembly in 1731 enacted a Statute declaring that, whenever upon a resurvey it should appear that there was actually contained within the bounds of any person's plat more acres of land than was expressed in the grant then the person holding the plat should be preferred before any other person for a new grant for such overplus, at the same quit-rent as reserved in the original grant.

¹Trans: Hist: Soc: of S. C., vol 1, p. 191.

²Ibid, p. 192.

³Off: Hist: Commⁿ. Bk. "Grants 1694-1739," p. 457.

⁴Office Secy of State, Grant Bk. B. B. 1734-1737, p. 571.

John Roberts applied to the Crown for a resurvey of the barony to ascertain the acreage within the bounds of the plat of the barony, and on such resurvey it was found that the barony as originally surveyed and laid out contained 13,970 acres. He thereupon applied under the Statute for a grant to cover the overplus and on 30 September, 1736, a formal grant was issued to him, granting him the overplus and recognizing and confirming to him the entire acreage of 13,970 acres as contained in the boundaries of the plat annexed to the original grant to Lord Carteret.⁵

From John Roberts the barony passed to Sir William Baker, Nicholas Linwood, and Brice Fisher. The record so far as the writer has been able to examine does not show exactly when or for what consideration John Roberts parted with the property, or whether or not during his ownership anything was done towards its reclamation. On 21 October, 1765, Sir William Baker, Nicholas Linwood and Brice Fisher (all apparently merchants of London) appointed Paul Trapier and Francis Stuart or the survivour as their attorneys, with full power of sale of the property.⁶ Francis Stuart soon after died, leaving Paul Trapier as his survivour under the power. Paul Trapier was the son or grandson of the ancestor of the family of that name in lower South Carolina, and was at the time apparently a merchant in Georgetown. The division of the barony seems to have been made at that time, for the sale was made in parcels.

The first sale according to the record was apparently to Robert Heriot, to whom Paul Trapier as attorney conveyed 2,177 acres on 5th November, 1766.⁷ On 12 December, 1766, he conveyed 2,412 acres to Thomas Mitchell,⁸ and on 2nd January, 1767, the following transfers were made, viz:

To Benjamin Huger, 1711 acres.⁹

To Benjamin Trapier, 1515 acres.¹⁰

To Peter Secare, 1061½ acres.¹¹

⁵Ibid.

⁶M. C. O. Charleston, Bk. T. No. 4, p. 64.

⁷Ibid.

⁸Unrecorded MSS. deed.

⁹M. C. O. Charleston, Bk. W. No. 4, p. 11.

¹⁰Ibid, Bk. Y. No. 3, p. 1.

¹¹Ibid, Bk. T. No. 3, p. 103.

On 6th January, 1767, the lower or southern end of the barony including the "point" proper and aggregating 3,303¾ acres was sold to Samuel Clegg.¹²

There was another sale made to Henry James Daubuz. The deed is not on record, but the conveyance to Peter Secare gives as his North boundary Henry James Daubuz. Thus by the 2nd January, 1767, the entire barony had been disposed of in these parcels.

Beginning from the Northern boundary line and going South, the order of the subdivisions sold was as follows:

Thomas Mitchell	2,412	acres
Robert Heriot	2,177	"
Benjamin Huger	1,711	"
Henry James Daubuz, estimated	1,789¾	"
Peter Secare	1,061½	"
Benjamin Trapier	1,515	"
Samuel Clegg	3,303¾	"
<hr/>		
Contents of barony	13,970	"

Thomas Mitchell died apparently early in 1768. He left a will¹³ whereby he devised the tract of 2,412 acres, part of Hobcaw Barony, to his son Edward. He left a wife, Hester (née Eſther Marion and widow of John Allston), three sons, Anthony, Thomas, and Edward, and three daughters, Mary (who married Maurice Simons), Sarah, and Elizabeth. Edward (who married Mary Moore) was the father of D^r. Edward Mitchell, who for many years resided on Edisto Island and was the father of the late Julian Mitchell of the City of Charleston.

Edward Mitchell, to whom the 2,412 acres had been devised, on 9th March, 1785, conveyed 1,206 acres or the northern half to William Allston,¹⁴ sometime Captain in Marion's command and afterwards Col. William Alston. This tract was afterwards known by the name of "Clifton" and appears to have continued in the descendants of William Allston until a few years ago.

¹²Ibid, Bk. L. No. 3, p. 61.

¹³Prob: Court Charleston, Bk. 1761-1777, p. 169.

¹⁴M. C. O. Charleston, Bk. Q. No. 5, p. 446.

The southern half, or 1,206 acres, was on 4th February, 1786, conveyed by Edward Mitchell to John Allston. It was subsequently known by the name of "Forlorn Hope." From John Allston the property apparently descended to his only daughter, Mary, who married (*en seconde nocces*) Benjamin Huger (son of Major Benjamin Huger of the Revolution). It was, or rather 793 acres of it was, under the name of "Forlorn Hope" transferred in 1835 by the executors of Benjamin Huger to William Algernon Alston.¹⁵

To the tract of 2,177 acres conveyed to Robert Heriot he added the 1,711 acres conveyed to Major Benjamin Huger and which the latter on 15 January, 1772, conveyed to Robert Heriot.¹⁶ Making 3,888 acres acquired and held by Heriot.

After Heriot's death his executors conveyed 1,243 acres, being the northern "slice" of the 3,888 acres to Roger Heriot, who conveyed it to M^{rs}. Mary Heriot, who on 1st January, 1802, conveyed it to William Alston.¹⁷ This plantation was known as "Rose Hill" and was on 1st January, 1803, transferred by Col. William Alston to his son, William Algernon Alston.¹⁸

The next slice of this 3,888 acres forms the plantation known as "Alderley." Exactly when it was transferred from Robert Heriot or his estate the record does not show, but in 1802 it appears to have been owned by Benjamin Huger (son of Major Benjamin Huger) and in 1808 by Col. Francis Kinloch Huger, the youngest son of the same Major Benjamin Huger, who held it for many years.

The remainder of the 3,888 acres, after Heriot's death, was sold off apparently in two "slices" to Thomas Young. The uppermost seems to have been called "Armordale" or "Annadale" and was after Young's death sold off in separate parcels, that bounding on the river containing acres was acquired by Benjamin Allston and afterwards known as "Oryzantia," and the pineland and sea shore part containing some 460 acres was sold off to Col. William

¹⁵Unrecorded MSS. deed.

¹⁶M. C. O. Charleston, Bk. T. No. 4, p. 61.

¹⁷Unrecorded MSS. deed.

¹⁸Unrecorded MSS. deed.

Alston 5th April, 1808.¹⁹ The next slice of 780 acres was purchased from Heriot's estate by Thomas Young 30 Jany., 1794,²⁰ and called "Youngville." At Young's death this also was sold in separate parcels, the riceland portion, fronting on Waccamaw river was on 8th March, 1808,²¹ sold to Benjamin Allston, S^r., for 296 acres, and the pine-land and sea shore part on the same day sold to William Alston, and together with the 460 acres adjoining formed Col. William Alston's "Crab Hall" tract. The 296 acres of Youngville, purchased by Benjamin Allston, was also subsequently transferred to Col. William Alston.

The tract bought by Henry James Daubuz seems to have been divided; 870 acres called "Bellfield" at some time passed into the hands of Thomas Young, at whose death it was sold to Col. William Alston, on 8th March, 1808.²² The remainder of the Daubuz tract seems at some time to have become united in the lands of the holder of the tract of 1,061½ acres of Peter Secare and to have been known with the last by the name of "Marietta."

The 1,515 acres sold to Benjamin Trapier he seems to have transferred to William Burnett, for Burnett on 9th July, 1784, split it in two slices, the upper of 746½ acres subsequently known as "Friendfield" he transferred to Edward Martin,²³ and the lower of 768½ acres, subsequently known as "Strawberry Hill" he transferred to Peter Foissin.²⁴

The 3,303¾ acres sold to Samuel Clegg was also divided into two, sometime after his purchase, by a line running north and south from the boundary of the purchase to Winyah Bay. The western part fronting on the Bay and on Waccamaw river was called "Calais," and in 1796 was owned by the Rev: Hugh Fraser, the Rector of the Parish of All Saints. It was from him the point received the name of "Fraser's Point," by which it is now known.

The eastern part was sold to one Michaux.

¹⁹Unrecorded MSS. deed.

²⁰Ibid.

²¹Ibid.

²²Ibid.

²³M. C. O. Charleston, Bk. E. No. 6, p. 560.

²⁴Ibid, Bk. Q. No. 5, p. 260.

All these lower plantations, Marietta, Friendfield, Strawberry Hill, Frasers Point or Calais, and Michaux, were in 1860 owned by the late William Algernon Alston, and thus it will be seen that the entire barony, with the single exception of "Alderley" was at one date or another owned by an Alston.

The destruction of the records of Georgetown County during the war of 1861-1865 renders it very difficult, if not impossible, to trace connectedly the devolution of the title to the Barony as subdivided to the present time.

The barony became, with the rest of Waccamaw neck comprising All Saints Parish, a part of that rich, populous and productive rice planting region in Georgetown County. The barony, as a part of the long narrow peninsula between the sea and Waccamaw river had no distinctive history apart from the remainder. The plantations into which it was subdivided became a part of the series of plantations stretching from Winyah Bay to the Horry County line. The crop—the money crop—of these plantations was rice. As a rule the plantation of each owner extended in a "slice" from the river to the sea. In the case of many, if not most, the rice land included in addition to a body of rice land on the peninsula proper, another body of rice land on the west side of the Waccamaw river upon the delta or swamp lying between the Waccamaw and Peedee rivers. The high land on the peninsula was the site of the dwellings of the planters and of their negro labourers. Most of the planters had also a summer residence upon the sea beaches or near to them, either upon that part of the seashore attached to the plantation proper or upon some more accessible beach. The high land also furnished the soil for the corn, oats and other crops, as well as the pasturage for the live stock.

The reclamation of this large area of swamp growth and its reduction to a condition of arable productivity was an enormous task for the time when, and the labour with which, it was performed.

Originally, from the contemporaneous descriptions, this swamp was covered with a thick forest growth of cypress and gum, intermixed with other swamp growths. It was also

subject to the flux and reflux of the tides. Twice in every twenty-four hours the land was submerged by the tidal flow and no work could be performed on it until the water receded. In periods of excessive rain and the freshets thereby caused the swollen waters from the river might remain on the lands for days or weeks, the fall of the tide on such occasions being insufficient to lay bare the land. To reclaim the soil under such circumstances it had first to be dyked or banked in and then the forest growth had to be removed, and then the land had to be again canalled, ditched and banked into smaller subdivisions, so as to permit the tilth of the soil and its proper drainage and irrigation. Nothing but an ocular inspection of the area can give an adequate idea of the skilful engineering and patient, intelligent supervision that went to the successful result. The only labour at the disposal of the settlers who accomplished the feat was of the most unskilled character, African savages fresh from the Guinea coast. It was an achievement no less skilful than that which excites our wonder in viewing the works of the ancient Egyptians. The task of reclaiming a swamp delta such as that between the Waccamaw and Pee Dee rivers involved an engineering skill no less than the construction of a pyramid, yet no one knows how many decades went to the last, and the first was performed in comparatively a few years. In both cases the labour was forced, a *corvée*, but in all probability the Egyptian was more skilled, better trained and under more exact discipline.

The southern planter who accomplished the result was a man who worked with his brains on an extended scale: but he gave to his task no less assiduous, continuous and patient industry than the northern farmer who worked with his hands in the field on a small scale.

Most of the earlier grants to land on Waccamaw neck seem to have been made, commencing about the year 1711, when Landgrave Robert Daniell, Thomas Hepworth, Michael Brewton, Joseph Pawley, Percival Pawley and others obtained grants on the neck north of the barony. The space of this article is too limited (as really it should be

confined to the barony) to give any detailed account of the successive grantees and settlers of the neck.

Somewhere about 1730, as approximately as the writer can judge, the Alston or Allston family acquired lands and settled on Waccamaw.

The two first comers of the name appear to have been John and William, two of the sons of John Alston the original immigrant.²⁵ Exactly where they settled the writer has not been able to definitely determine. From tradition and from the fact that each of the two plantations has a private family cemetery or burying ground upon it, it is probable, as a safe surmise, that their respective settlements were at "Turkey Hill" and "The Oaks." A copy of the inscriptions over the graves at "Turkey Hill"²⁶ and "The Oaks"²⁷ have already been published in this Magazine. None of the stones at either are very old: the oldest being at "Turkey Hill" dated 1780.

The immigrant John Alston spelt his name with a single "l." His descendants on Waccamaw seem to have accepted and used the spelling Allston, using the double "ll". About 1792 his great grandson, Col. William Alston returned to the original form and all the descendants of this last have ever since used the single "l." The other members of the family and their descendants have retained the form Allston.

Whenever and wherever the Alstons or Allstons located they in no great space of time spread out and gradually acquired a good majority of the area of the neck. There are some plantations that have been always held by other names, but it is no exaggeration to say that at one time or another the great majority, say four-fifths, of the plantations on the entire neck has been owned by one of the name of Alston or Allston. If the usual habit of this American country had been followed of ignoring the name given by

²⁵S. C. Hist: & Gen: Mag:, vol. 6, p. 116.

²⁶S. C. Hist: & Gen: Mag:, vol. 10, p. 181.

²⁷Ibid, vol. 12, p. 38.

the aborigines and substituting the name of a settler the peninsula might well have been called Alston land or Alston's neck.

In June, 1777, the Marquis de la Fayette landed in South Carolina.²⁸ He had sailed from Bordeaux on the 26th March, preceding under the name of Gilbert du Motier in company with the Baron de Kalb and several other officers from the French army, and landed near Georgetown on the 14th June.²⁹ Garden, in his anecdotes,³⁰ says they "landed on "North Island in Winyaw Bay and were welcomed with "the most cordial hospitality by the family of Major Huger, "who made it their summer residence."

The late Col. Francis Kinloch Huger (son of Major Benjamin Huger), according to his own account as related by his daughter, the late Miss Elizabeth Huger, stated "that "General la Fayette had first landed at my father's house "on North Island in the harbour of Georgetown in South "Carolina. The small vessel in which they had sailed from "France, made the land off that part of the coast, lying as "they knew to the north of Charleston. * * * They "sent a boat to obtain information, and observing a canoe "fishing outside the breakers desired it might be brought "to their vessel. The negroes in the canoe were people of "my father's, who * * * piloted the boat * * * "to my father's house on the island, which they reached "about nightfall. * * * These circumstances were told "me by my mother. Their guests remained with them "another day and night until a carriage and horses could "be brought from the plantation and my father accompanied "them by land to Charleston."³¹

Johnson, in his "Traditions of the American Revolution" "states:³² "In 1777, while residing on his rice plantation "near Georgetown, Major Huger was called upon by two "strangers, neither of whom could speak a word of Eng- "lish * * * They told him that they had left France "to visit America and had been put ashore near George-

²⁸Gazette of State of S. C., for June 16, 1777.

²⁹Appleton's Ency. of Biography "La Fayette."

³⁰1st series, p. 95.

³¹"Olmutz," pp. 5, 6.

³²p. 222.

"town on North Island, wishing to proceed northwardly. "One of them announced himself as the Marquis de la Fayette, the other as the Baron de Steuben. They were "hospitably entertained by Major Huger, introduced to his "neighbours and friends and then conveyed in his own "equipage to Charleston."

Johnson's account is evidently not exact. He wrote many many years later (in 1851). It was Baron de Kalb not Steuben who came with de la Fayette. Steuben arrived in America on 1st. Decr., 1777, at Portsmouth, New Hampshire.³³ The rest of Johnson's account of Major Benjamin Huger and his family is very inaccurate.

The Marquis himself states as follows: "After having "encountered for seven weeks various perils and chances "we arrived at Georgetown in Carolina. Ascending the "river in a canoe his foot touched at length the American "soil and he swore that he would conquer or perish in that "cause. Landing at midnight at Major Huger's house he "found a vessel sailing for France which appeared only "waiting for his letters. Several of the officers landed, "others remained on board and all hastened to proceed to "Charleston."³⁴

On the 15th June, writing to his wife "at Major Huger's" he says:

"I have arrived my dearest love in perfect health at the "home of an American Officer * * * I am going this "evening to Charleston."³⁵

And again writing to her from Charleston, on the 19th June, he says: "I first saw and judged of a country life "at Major Huger's house."³⁶

In a note to these memoirs it is stated that in 1828, M^r. Jared Sparks, preparing to publish the writings of Washington, made a voyage to France and saw and conversed with de la Fayette, from whom he obtained much information, and it is believed that the details of de la Fayette's

³³Ency. Brit., 11th Ed.; vol. 25, p. 904.

³⁴Memoirs, correspondence and manuscripts of General Lafayette, published by his family, London, 1837, vol. 1, p. 14.

³⁵Ibid, p. 92.

³⁶Ibid, p. 94.

narrative as given by Sparks was related or written by the Marquis himself.³⁷

Sparks in his "Writings of Washington," vol. V, p. 450, states as to de la Fayette's arrival: "It was dark before they came so near the shore as to be able to land. La Fayette and some of the officers entered the ships boat, which was rowed to the beach. Here they debarked and a distant light served to guide them. When they arrived near the house whence the light proceeded the dogs growled and barked and the people within supposed them to be a party of marauders from the enemy's vessels. * * * He found himself in the house of Major Huger, a gentleman not more remarkable for his hospitality than for his worth and highly respectable character. Major Huger provided horses to convey him and his companions to Charleston."

It seems most plausible that after a long sea journey the travellers landed at the first available landing place, viz: on North Island at the entrance to the harbour, and there found Major Huger at his summer residence on the seashore, the customary place for planters in the neighborhood to make their summer residence. The writer of this article can state that the tradition when he was a boy among the old planters who made their summer residence on South Island, was that a large sand hill or dune on North Island, just opposite, was the first land in America trodden by de la Fayette. Of late—very recent—years an impression has existed that the plantation called "Prospect Hill" on the Waccamaw, was the plantation of Major Huger visited by de la Fayette. This is wholly erroneous. Major Huger never owned or is known to have occupied "Prospect Hill." In 1777 "Prospect Hill" was owned by Joseph Allston who devised it to his son Thomas, who married his cousin Mary, daughter of Captain John Allston of the "Foot Rangers or Rovers,"³⁸ also apparently called the "Raccoon" company of riflemen,³⁹ who, under Col.

³⁷Ibid, p. 6, note.

³⁸Collins: Hist: Soc., vol. 3, p. 128, and S. C. Hist: & Gen: Mag., vol. 9, p. 116.

³⁹Drayton's Memoirs, vol. 2, pp. 288, 289.

William Thomson, were on the 28 June, 1776, posted to resist General Clinton's expected crossing from Long Island to Sullivan's Island.⁴⁰ Capt. John Allston died in 1795.⁴¹ Thomas Allston died in 1794 and devised to his wife, Mary, "Prospect Hill" and she married Benjamin Huger, the eldest son of Major Benjamin Huger. From the identity of name between father and son, and the fact that the son lived at his wife's plantation of "Prospect Hill," has no doubt arisen the supposition that de la Fayette visited his father there.

Col. Francis Kinloch Huger, the youngest son of Major Benjamin Huger owned at one time the plantation called "Alderley," which was a part of the barony. As Robert Heriot seems to have owned up to 1794 the part of the barony which, as near as the writer can locate, it seems to have formed the "Alderley" plantation, it was impossible to have been in 1777 owned by Major Benjamin Huger.

It was this Col. Francis Kinloch Huger who made the gallant, if unsuccessful, attempt in 1794 to enable the Marquis de la Fayette to escape from the Austrian fortress or prison of Olmutz, for which Col. Huger himself paid the penalty of an imprisonment for eight months awaiting trial and performing his sentence.

As de la Fayette arrived at nightfall on the 14th June, and wrote on the 15th that he was going that evening to Charlestown, he did not have much time to visit plantations any distance removed from North Island.

The expression in his letter of the 19th June, that he first saw and judged of a country life at Major Huger's house must be taken as referring to his house on North Island. The old post road came down Waccamaw neck to Calais or Fraser's Point and thence there was a ferry to Dover on the opposite shore of the Bay, and from Dover the road went by Lynch's ferry over the Santee to Charleston. De la Fayette was probably ferried directly across to Dover (leaving Georgetown to the West) and thence proceeded to Charleston.

⁴⁰Ibid.

⁴¹S. C. Hist: & Gen: Mag:, vol. 12, p. 40.

Major Benjamin Huger had a plantation called "Richmond" on Peedee (possibly the plantation of that name just outside of Georgetown).⁴² He had married *en seconde nocces* Miss Marie Esther Kinloch, who seems to have resided with her mother at the Kensington plantation, next above Richmond, and was also interested in the "Rice Hope" plantation of her father on Santee river, very near the road to Charleston by Lynch's ferry. So that if after going to Major Huger's summer residence on North Island de la Fayette also accompanied him to his plantation, it may have been any of the three last named places, but was quite certainly *not* "Prospect Hill."

The island bordering the ocean on the eastern boundary of the barony commonly known as "Debidue" island was anciently called Yahany or Yauhaney island, and the inlet to the north was Yahany inlet. The island was afterwards called Sandy island and later Dubordieu island, whence the corruption "Debidue."

North of the barony line, Prospect Hill, Fairfield, Oak Hill, Bannockburn, Hagley, Weehauka, True Blue, Midway, Waverly, Turkey Hill, The Oaks, Brookgreen, Wachesaw, and Woodburn, were also at one time or another owned by an Alston or Allston. The Forlorn Hope place was as stated the property of Capt: John Allston of the "Foot Rangers." The Midway plantation was at one time the plantation of the late Benjamin Faneuil Dunkin, a native of Massachusetts, who moved to South Carolina early in the last century, became a Chancellor and later Chief Justice of her courts and a most honoured and loyal citizen. Hagley plantation was the property and home of Plowden Charles Jennett Weston, a gentleman of most excellent education and rare ability, and one of the first members of the Historical Society of South Carolina. Profoundly interested in the preservation of the history of the State, he printed at his own expense a volume of "Documents connected with the History of South Carolina," which he dedicated to the Society, trusting it might "be only an advanced skirmisher, "the predecessor of a long array of useful and curious "works published under the auspices of the Society."

⁴²See case of Washington vs. Huger, 1 DeS: Rep., 360.

Possessed of large affluence, when the hour of conflict and trial of this country arrived he sought no immunity therefrom, but freely and zealously devoted both his purse and his person to his country's service.

"The Oaks" appears to have been an original Alston settlement. It belonged to William Allston (the son of John Alston the immigrant) from whom it passed to his son Joseph Allston, who was a gentleman of large fortune, mostly of his own acquisition, and great intelligence, who did much to settle and improve the Parish. He was the father of Captain (afterwards known as Colonel) William Alston of Marion's command, to whose son and his own grandson, Joseph Alston, he devised the Oaks.⁴³ This last Joseph Alston was also a man of rare talents. At an early age he was elected to the Legislature and made Speaker of the House, and in 1812 he was made Governor of the State. In 1801 he married Theodosia Burr and the home of the two was thereafter at "The Oaks."⁴⁴ It was at the Oaks or the Seashore place in the neighborhood that their son, Aaron Burr Alston, died on the 30th June, 1812, and it was from the Oaks that Theodosia Burr Alston departed to sail on the 30 December, 1812, on the pilot boat built schooner *Patriot* from Georgetown to New York. She went at the urgent solicitation of her father, who had but lately returned to this country, to meet him in New York.

The "Patriot" was a schooner that had been built for a pilot boat, but which had been fitted out for and used as a privateer after the declaration of war with England. It had come into Georgetown to refit and then proceed to New York, carrying her guns dismounted and under deck. M^r. Timothy Green, a friend of Colonel Burr, had at the latter's request come to South Carolina to attend M^{rs}. Alston on the voyage, so as to give her the medical attention her father conceived her state of health might require. They both sailed in the "Patriot." Governor Alston accompanied his wife to a point near Georgetown bar and there parted with her at noon, Thursday December 31st, 1812. The vessel never reached her destination,

⁴³See "Theodosia" by Chas: Felton Pidgin, Boston, 1907, p. 230.

⁴⁴Ibid, p. 274.

nor was it or any of her crew or passengers seen again. A severe gale prevailed from the 1st January, 1813, for some days off the coast of North Carolina, and there is no reasonable doubt but that the "Patriot" was lost and all on board perished during that gale. She carried her guns as cargo or ballast under deck and if imperfectly secured they had broken loose during the storm, that casualty would have been sufficient to account for her foundering. The story of her having been captured by pirates resting on the fiction-like confessions of alleged old freebooters and supposed to be corroborated by an unidentified picture found on an abandoned vessel, as narrated by an illiterate old woman of Nags Head, North Carolina, and fanciful resemblances between the lady in the picture and cousins of Theodosia Burr in the 4th and 5th degree, involves so many inconsistencies, contradictions and improbabilities, not to say impossibilities, as to deprive it of the merit of any serious consideration.

Governor Joseph Alston died 10 September, 1816, and was buried in the family cemetery at "The Oaks" by the side of his son.

Brookgreen plantation was owned by Capt. William Allston (also an officer in Marion's command).⁴⁵ He was the father of Washington Allston the artist, who is by tradition stated to have been born at Brookgreen. He was born on 5th November, 1779.

Waccamaw Neck was originally included in the Parish of Prince George's Winyaw, as that Parish was created by the Act of 10 March, 1721. By Act of Assembly, passed 23 May, 1767, all the lands lying between the sea and Waccamaw river, as far as the boundary line of North Carolina, were constituted a separate Parish under the name of the Parish of All Saints Waccamaw.⁴⁶ By an Act passed 16 Mach, 1778,⁴⁷ All Saints Parish was made a separate political division, electing two members of the General Assembly. By the constitution of 1808 it elected one member of the House and also a Senator. This con-

⁴⁵Mills' Statistics of S. C., p. 570.

⁴⁶Stats. of S. C., vol. 4, p. 268.

⁴⁷Ibid, p. 407.

tinued until 1865, when the Parish was abolished as a separate political subdivision. The Act of 1778 is almost a transcript of that of 1767, except that in that of 1778 the parish is divided off as a political electing unit from the Parish of Prince George Winyah and the Commissioners to build the Church Chapel of Ease and Parsonage named in the first Act were William Allston, Joseph Allston, Charles Lewis, William Pawley, Josias Allston, William Allston, J^r., and John Clarke, and in the second Act, Percival Pawley, Joseph Allston, and Thomas Butler.

The Rev^d. Alexander Glennie, the Rector of the Parish from 1832 to 1866, in his address at the laying of the corner stone of the new Church in All Saints Parish, on 27th December, 1843, stated:

“What was done by the above named Commissioners, “or at what period the original building which stood upon “this spot was erected cannot now be ascertained. It is “well known that the Glebe was purchased & the Church “built before the Revolutionary War.

“About the year 1793 Capt. John Allston of this Parish “caused the old Church then in a state of dilapidation, to “be taken down & had the building which lately stood here “erected at a cost of £100 sterling. This was repaired & “the interior fitted up with pews &c in 1813. On the 19th “of Nov^r. 1816, it was consecrated by the name of *the “Parish Church of All Saints* * * * by the R^t. Rev^d. “Theodore Dehon, at that time Bishop of this Diocese.”

In 1838 M^{rs}. Mary Huger, daughter of Capt. John Allston just mentioned, and widow of Benjamin Huger, son of Major Benjamin Huger, the host of de la Fayette, died, and by her Will directed her residuary estate to be paid to the vestry and wardens of the Upper Episcopal Church of All Saints Parish. The amount paid in 1840, under this request, was \$5,441.81, and in 1843 the vestry determined to build a brick church, upon the site of the Parish church, with the proceeds of this bequest. The corner stone was laid 27 Decr., 1843, and in April, 1844, the church was completed and the pews sold and on 8th April, 1845, the new building was consecrated by the R^t. Rev^d. Christopher E. Gadsden, then Bishop of the Diocese. It was much

larger than the one it displaced and contained galleries on each side for the accommodation of the negroes. Col. Joshua John Ward presented an organ to the church. M^{rs}. Francis M. Weston presented a bible, prayer book, a chancel chair, a marble font and a carpet for the chancel desk and pulpit. Plowden C. J. Weston, Esqr., presented all the necessary furniture and benches for the communion table.

This edifice is still standing. A copy of the inscription on the corner stone was published in this Magazine in the number for July, 1912. Owing to mutilations and defacements it is given there imperfectly. The exact inscription taken from a copy in M^r. Glennie's papers is as follows.

On the S. E. side.

"The first edifice built of wood before the | Revolution
 "was taken down about A. D. 1793 | The second also of
 "wood was built about A. D. 1793 | by Capt: John Allston:
 "was repaired in 1813 | and was taken down in 1843 | This
 "third edifice will be erected chiefly | with the funds be-
 "queathed to this Church by | Mrs. Mary Huger daughter
 "of the above | Capt: John Allston | Building Committee:
 "Edward T. Heriot | Francis M. Weston, Joshua J. Ward,
 "T. Pinckney Alston, John H. Tucker: Architect and
 "Builder Lewis Rebb |"

On the N. E. side.

"Corner Stone of the third Edifice | erected on this site |
 "under the appellation of | the Parish Church of All
 "Saints | Laid by the Rev^d. Alex^r. Glennie A. M. | Rector
 "of the Parish | Dec^r. 27. 1843 | Glory be to God | The
 "Father Son and Holy Ghost."

A Church or Chapel of Ease was built in the lower part of the Parish about 1819, near the main highroad on the Oak Hill plantation. This was altered and enlarged in 1841 and accommodation provided for the negroes, and it was again further altered in 1851. The edifice was of wood and was destroyed by fire soon after the war of 1861-1865.

A third church for the accommodation of the inhabitants of the Parish was built in the upper part of the Parish near the highroad on Wachesaw plantation. The

corner stone was laid 2^d. April, 1855, with the following inscriptions thereon.

East side.

In The Name of The Father | The Son & The Holy
Ghost | Amen | The Right Rev^d. T. F. Davis D. D. | Bishop
of South Carolina | Laid This As the Corner Stone of | A
Building Dedicated To The Worship of | Almighty GOD |
According To the Rites of the | Protestant Episcopal
Church | Under The Name of | Saint John The Evange-
list | On the II Day of April MDCCCLV |

North side.

Rector of All Saints Parish | The Rev^d Alexander Glen-
nie A. M. | Assistant Minister | The Rev^d. Lucien Charles
Lance B. A. | Building Committee | Francis W. Heriot |
Plowden C. J. Weston | Allard B. Flagg | Glory Be To
God on High & on | Earth Peace Good Will | Towards
Men. |

The building was consecrated 15 April, 1859. This building has also been destroyed.

In addition to the foregoing churches there were erected upon many of the plantations, chapels for the special accommodation of the negroes. In 1858, according to the report of the Rev^d. M^r. Glennie for that year there were no less than twelve plantation chapels constructed and in use.

According to the census of 1790 there were in All Saints Parish 430 free whites and 1,795 slaves. Of these last, 877 were reported as owned by the six Allstons named as slave owners. Alexander Wilson the celebrated ornithologist who made a trip thro' the lower part of South Carolina in 1809, thus describes his journey on Waccamaw:

"On arriving at the Wackamaw Peedee and Black river
"I made long zigzags among the rich nabobs who live on
"their rice plantations, amidst large villages of negro huts.
"One of these gentlemen told me that he had 'something
"better than six hundred head of blacks.' These excursions detained me greatly. The roads to the plantations
"were so long, so difficult to find, and so bad, and the
"hospitality of the planters was such, that I could scarcely
"get away again."

In 1826 Mills in his statistics gives Georgetown County as possessing agricultural lands of the highest value in the entire State, choice spots of first quality rice lands selling for \$300 per acre and averaging \$100 per acre.

Upon no section of the State of South Carolina has the economic and social destruction consequent upon the war of 1861-1865 fallen more heavily than on All Saints Parish. Its inhabitants were land holding people who had so been for generations. Its lands were still held largely by descendants of the first settlers. Its industry was chiefly the cultivation of rice under a system that required a skilled disciplined and compulsory labour. With the loss of over a century's accumulated capital and the disappearance of that method of labour, the entire system upon which former prosperity was based was swept away. The old were as a rule unable to meet the change, the young had not the capital.

Forty-eight years after 1865 and nearly every acre of the Neck has passed from the descendants of those who held it in 1860. Practically not an acre of rice is cultivated. Nearly every old plantation home has been burnt or abandoned. The home of Joseph and Theodosia Alston at the Oaks has shared the common fate. Over the once fertile and arable rice fields, now abandoned, the tide flows daily as it did before they were reclaimed and Hobcaw Barony is but a large game preserve. Alas for Waccamaw.